

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5185

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN COMMENTS PUBLICLY ON HAWK MISSILE SALE

1. IN WIDE-RANGING INTERVIEW WITH JUMA' HAMAAD, PALESTINIAN
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF GOJ-SPONSORED DAILY AR-RAYY AND LONG-TIME
FRIEND OF KING, HUSSEIN COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON CONGRESSIONAL
ATTEMPTS TO ALTER TERMS OF U.S. ARMS SALE TO JORDAN. INTERVIEW,
ONE OF LONGEST IN RECENT MEMORY, GIVEN BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT
JULY 23 IN AR-RAYY. ALTHOUGH KING RESPONDED TO 15 QUESTIONS ON
VARIOUS TOPICS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH (THE LAST) CONCERNED HAWKS,
HEADLINES READ: "HUSSEIN WARNS AMERICAN CONGRESS--OBSTACLES
IN WAY OF OUR OBTAINING ARMS WILL AFFECT JORDANIAN-AMERICAN
RELATIONS; WE WILL TRY TO SEVER OUR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS FROM
ANY SOURCE; WE KNOW THAT WE ARE TARGET OF AGGRESSION". TWO
EDITORIALS ON ARMS SALE ACCOMPANY INTERVIEW. SUBSTANCE OF
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KING'S COMMENTS ON HAWK DEAL PLUS HIGH POINTS OF EDI-

TORIALS FOLLOW. FULL TEXT INTERVIEW IN FBIS JN2310506.

2. HAMAAD SOUGHT KING'S VIEWS ON "FRIENDS OF ISRAEL" WHO ARE WAGING "FIERCE BATTLE" IN HOUSE AND SENATE TO BLOCK OR ALTER TERMS OF SALE. WOULD JORDAN CONSENT TO THIS, AND WHAT WILL SHE DO IF THEY SUCCEED? KING RESPONDED THAT AMERICAN DECISION TO SELL ROCKETS TO JORDAN WAS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH FREE WILL OF ADMINISTRATION. YET "ZIONIST PRESSURE GROUPS" IN AMERICA ACT ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH WILL OF ISRAEL AND REFLECT "UGLY DECEIT/ CHARACTERISTIC OF ISRAELI BEHAVIOR. WEAPONS SALE WAS SUBJECT OF LENGTHY DISCUSSION BETWEEN JORDANIAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF JORDANIAN DEFENSE NEEDS AGAINST POSSIBLE ATTACK. BY AGREEING TO PAY THE PRICE OF THE WEAPONS, "IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CERTAIN AGREEMENT, " SAUDI ARABIA GENEROUSLY REMOVED LAST OBSTACLE--FUNDING-- TO ARMS DEAL. JORDAN THEN DEFINED TO U.S. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE AND REACHED SATISFACTORY FORMULA. IT SEEMS, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAEL AND HER FRIENDS HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MASSIVE AMERICAN ARMS AID DURING OCTOBER WAR, WHICH ULTIMATELY HELPED ISRAEL TO ESTABLISH HERSELF IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JERUSALEM.

3. KING CONTINUED, JORDAN WILL BE PRIMARY TARGET OF ANY ISRAELI ATTACK. GOJ IS THEREFORE CLOSELY FOLLOWING INTENSIVE PROPOGANDA CAMPAIGN BEING DIRECTED AGAINST US. "WE SAY CLEARLY: DEPRIVING US OF THE DEFENSE WEAPONS WHICH WE NEED WILL DEFINITELY AFFECT JORDANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT ABOVE ALL, IT WILL NOT AFFECT OUR RESOLVED TO SEVURE ALL THE ARMS WE NEED FROM WHATEVER SOURCE. WE WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY REDUCTION IN THE QUANTITY OF ARMS ON WHICH WE HAVE AGREED WITH WASHINGTON, EVEN BY ONE PIECE. WE WILL NOT HESITATE FOR A SINGLE MOMENT TO OBTAIN ITS EQUIVALENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE IF WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SEVURE ALL OUR WEAPONS FROM THE U.S...WHAT CONCEITED LOGIC IS THAT WHICH SAYS THAT ARMS AGAINST RAIDING HOSTILE AIRCRAFT MUST NOT BE GIVEN TO JORDAN, WHEREAS THE DOORS ARE WIDE OPEN FOR ISRAEL TO OBTAIN THE SAME PLANES...."

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4. AR-RAYY EDITORIALS STRESSED JORDANIAN READINESS TO GO TO OTHER SOURCES, REFERRING TO "ATTEMPTS BY ZIONIST ELEMENTS IN U.S. CONGRESS TO MAKE A CHEAP ELECTORAL BID OUT OF THIS ARMS DEAL. THE KING ANNOUNCED THAT THE OBSTRUCTION OF THIS DEAL WILL DEFINITELY AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., BUT WILL NOT AFFECT OUR DETERMINATION TO SEVURE SUCH WEAPONS FROM ANY OTHER SOURCES--

NOR WILL WE AGREE TO REDUCE THE QUANTITIES OF ARMS
ORIGINALLY AGREED ON WITH WASHINGTONARMS ARE A NON-
POLITICAL COMMODITY, AND THE SOURCES OF ARMS HAVE BECOME
MORE NUMEROUS....AMERICA IS NOW BEING TESTED BY OUR
REQUEST...IF WE RECEIVE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE, IT WOULD
BE AN INDICATION OF A SALUTORY CHANGE IN AMERICAN
POLICY, A CHANGE WHICH, ONE HOPES, COULD LEAD TO A
SUSPENSION OF ARMS DELIVERIES TO AN ENEMY WHICH DEPRIVES
OUR CHILDREN OF THEIR BASIC SUSTENANCE."

5. COMMENT: SATURATION TREATMENT AND SHRILL TONE OF
EDITORIALS IS SURPRISING FOLLOWING THIS WEEK'S MINIMAL
JORDANIAN COVERAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE. MEDIA
TREATMENT UNTIL TODAY HAS BEEN SO MUTED THAT NEWSPAPER-
READING PUBLIC HAS BEEN ONLY VAGUELY AWARE OF DEBATE
OVER ARMS DEAL.
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